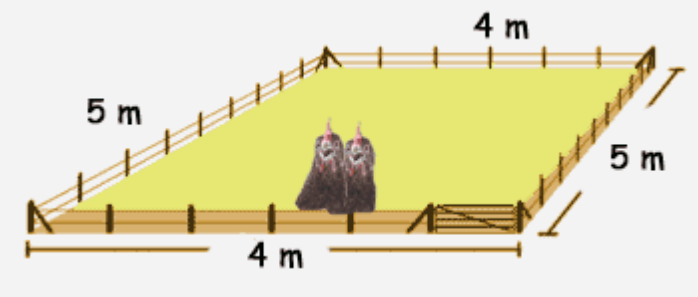
Introduction to perimeter

The perimeter of a shape is the distance **all the way round its edges**. Perimeter is measured in units such as **centimetres**, **feet** or **metres**.

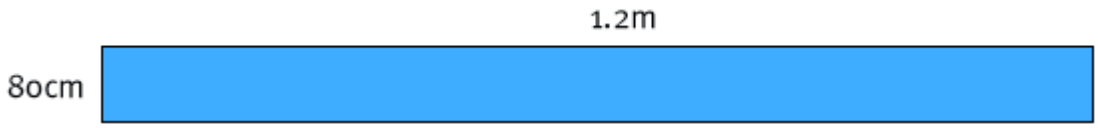
The measurements needed to calculate a perimeter depend on the shape. For a **rectangle** you will need to know the **length and width** of the shape. (It is usual to call the longest side the **length** and the shortest the width or breadth.)

Example 1
This diagram represents a pen for Jim's hens. How much netting does he need to go round the plot? All measurements are in metres.



Here the length is 5 m and the width is 4 m.
The perimeter of the plot is:
5 + 4 + 5 + 4 = 18 m
So he needs 18 m of netting.

Example 2
This diagram represents a pond that needs a low railing around the boundary. Sali is working out the perimeter.



All measurements used in the calculation must be in the same units. So she uses metres and works out:
1.2 + 0.8 + 1.2 + 0.8 = 4.0 m
So the perimeter is **4 m**